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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

3 May 1978
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•	WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT	
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ARTICLES |

Breakthrough in the Letelier Case

Recent developments regarding the 21 September 1976 bombing deaths of Orlando Letelier and a colleague in downtown Washington, D.C., have linked together an American Citizen who lived in Chile for twenty years, two Cuban exiles living in the U.S., working members of the Chilean intelligence service (formerly named DINA), and the former chief of the Chilean intelligence service.

In the aftermath of the bombing, U.S. officials traced leads to the Chilean intelligence service and discovered two photos of unidentified men who were believed to have traveled to the U.S. about one month before the bombing to arrange the operation with Cuban exiles. The photos were published in U.S. and Chilean newspapers, and within a short time, the two men were identified as a U.S. citizen who has lived in Chile for twenty years and a Chilean citizen who worked for DINA. In an attempt to convince the Chilean government to produce the two suspects for questioning the U.S. began the formal process of presenting "letters rogatory" to the Chilean courts; at first the Chilean government denied the existence of the two, but later, after increasing international criticism for its lack of cooperation in the case, the Chilean government admitted their existence and questioned them. In a surprise move, the American was arrested and placed on board a U.S.-bound airliner in the custody of FBI officials; Chilean authorities claimed that they had complied with the spirit and letter of the "letters rogatory" after having discovered the involvement of the American in the case.

As of early May, the American was in custody in the U.S., charged with conspiracy to commit murder and with bail set at five million dollars. Initial reports have revealed that he has agreed to cooperate completely with the authorities and has already incriminated at least ten other persons in the assassination. Authorities have stated that he has also provided information on several other bombing attacks on former Chilean officials in Latin America.

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Concurrent with the investigation of leads to Chile and DINA, U.S. officials discovered that two Cuban exiles living in the U.S. were connected to the assassination. During late April the two were arrested; at the time, one was found to be carrying cocaine and guns. Abroad, links to the case extended to the former chief of DINA, who was replaced shortly after his connection to the bombing became public. Another Chilean official, who had issued two false passports used by the American and the Chilean to enter the U.S. to arrange for the killing, has been officially reported to have committed suicide, although relatives claim he was assassinated by the Chilean government in order to prevent him from giving damaging information to investigating officals. As of May 1978, the investigation was continuing.

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3 May 1978

Two West German Terrorists Sentenced

On 26 April, in Stuttgart, West Germany, the superior court of Baden-Wuerttemberg found West German terrorist Guenter Friedrich Wilhelm Gustav Sonnenberg, 23, guilty of the attempted murder of two policemen in order to conceal criminal acts and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Sonnenberg and a terrorist companion, Verena Becker, were captured on 3 May 1977 after a dramatic shootout with local police in Singen, West Germany, a small town near the Swiss border (see the issue of 11 May). Becker, one of the five terrorists released from prison by the West German government in March 1975 in exchange for the freedom of kidnaped CDU politician Peter Lorenz, was sentenced in December on the same charge of the attempted murder of two policemen in Singen.

Sonnenberg had been one of a trio of terrorists, presumed members of the Baader-Meinhof Gang/Red Army Faction, widely sought by West German authorities as suspects in the April 1977 assassination in Karlsruhe of chief public prosecutor Siegfried Buback and his two guards. (In the trial just completed, the court ignored the difficult problem of proving Sonnenberg's participation in the Buback slaying.) A second member of the trio, Knut Folkerts, 26, was captured in the Netherlands in December 1977 during a shootout in which he killed a Dutch policeman. Folkerts was subsequently sentenced to 20 years in prison by a Utrecht court for this killing. The difference in the sentences and the relationship to the gravity of the crimes would appear to be an interesting commentary on the current attitudes toward terrorists in West Germany and the Netherlands.

The third member of the trio, Christian Klar, 26, is still at large. West German authorities believe he is living outside Germany; both he and Folkerts had been wanted on suspicion of possible involvement in some or all of the three terrorist dramas of 1977 in West Germany (the slaying of Buback and guards, the slaying of Juergen Ponto and the kidnaping and subsequent slaying of Hanns-Martin Schleyer). Klar remains on the most wanted list of the German Federal Criminal office--in company with 39 other West German terrorists.

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In the meantime, in West Berlin, the trial of 2 June Movement member Monika Berberich ended on 27 April in a seven and a half year sentence for prison mutiny, deprivation of liberty, assault and battery, illegal possession of weapons, and resisting the police. Berberich was one of the four female terrorists who escaped from prison in July 1976; she was recaptured in West Berlin within two weeks of the escape. The other three--Juliane Plambeck, Inge Viett and Gabriele Rolinik--remain on the most wanted list. The courtroom scene in which Berberich figured was more turbulent than Sonnenberg's trial; the court had to be cleared several times because of disturbances created by the audience. West Berlin police have not ruled out the possibility that sympathizers might direct retaliatory actions against German governmental institutions in reaction to the verdict.

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NOTES

West German Citizens Killed in Attack on Tourist Bus in Israel

On 26 April two West German youths were killed and several others injured during a grenade attack on a tourist bus in Nablus. The wounded are hospitalized near Tel Aviv. The youths, in Israel under the sponsorship of the Lutheran church to do humanitarian work, had been on an outing during the Passover holiday to Galilee and were returning to Jerusalem. They had stopped in Nablus to tour the home of a local official and had just boarded the bus again when the grenade was thrown into the bus and exploded. An intensive search for the perpetrators was conducted and a number of Arabs have been taken into custody.

Nablus has been an area of political protest and Arab violence, and attacks on motor traffic have been a regular occurrence (usually rock throwing). This attack could be an indication of a terrorist offensive directed against tourism, which is a key part of the Israeli economy. In January the Arab Revolutionary Army Palestinian Commando claimed responsibility for injecting oranges from Israel with mercury to sabotage the Israeli economy

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Palestinian Woman Convicted by Somalia for Lufthansa Hijacking

A Palestinian woman, the only surviving member of a group that hijacked a Lufthansa aircraft last October, was convicted of air piracy and terrorism and sentenced to 20 years in prison by a Somali court, according to the official Somali press agency. Suhayla Sami al-Sayih was sentenced on 25 April after a secret trial in Somalia's national security court in which the prosecution presented witnesses and written testimony. She had pleaded not guilty. The announcement of her conviction ended speculation on the whereabouts of al-Sayih, who was wounded in the head, chest and legs when West German commandos stormed the hijacked aircraft at the Mogadishu airport on 17 October 1977

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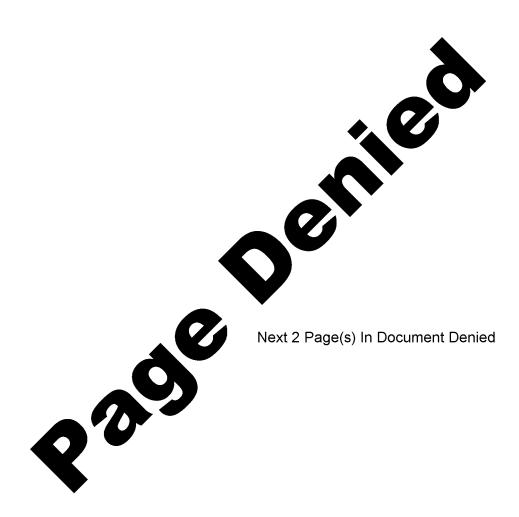
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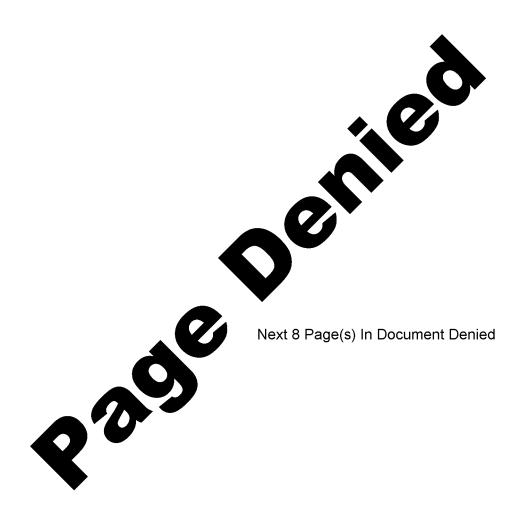
Explosive Found at the Iranian Consulate in Germany

On 26 April a janitor discovered an explosive device on the terrace of the Iranian consulate general in Berlin. The explosive was in a brown case and was made of a propane gas bottle filled with a mixture of chlorate and sugar. The detonator consisted of a 9 volt battery and an alarm clock. Berlin police defused the bomb before it exploded. Two persons were seen leaving the area just after the device was discovered, but no descriptions could be given. No organization has claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing. Earlier this year anti-shah Iranians took over the Iranian embassy in East Berlin during demonstrations, and this latest incident may have been more of this group's activities.

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CHRO	NOLOGY OF	SIGNIFICAN'	T INTERNATIONAL TER	RRORIST ACTS	
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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

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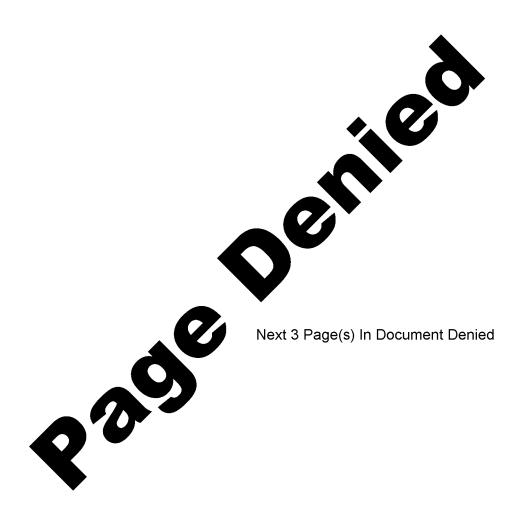
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Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/06/26: CIA-RDP79-01209A001000010001-7 SECRET 50X1-HUM 10 May 1978 NOTES Red Brigades Killers Remain Anonymous The Red Brigades (Brigate Rosse, BR) terrorist organization of Italy ended its 54 day captivity of Aldo Moro with the same anonymity that marked the beginning of the incident on 16 March, when twelve BR members abducted Italy's former prime minister after slaying his five guards. On 9 May, police intercepted an anonymous phone call to one of Moro's secretaries and learned that Moro's body was to be found in a car parked almost equidistant from the headquarters of the Christian Democratic party and that of the Communist Party of Italy. The location was symbolic because Moro was considered the chief architect of the 11 March agreement between the two parties -- an agreement which would give Italy its first government with formal Communist support to the Christian Democrats in 30 years. Few terrorist incidents in recent years have attracted such worldwide attention, and none, except for the Schleyer case in 1977 in West Germany, has involved the deployment of such vast numbers of the investigative resources of a modern European state in the hunt for clues to the perpetrators of the crimes. As far as is known, the twelve assassins remain 50X1-HUM anonymous.

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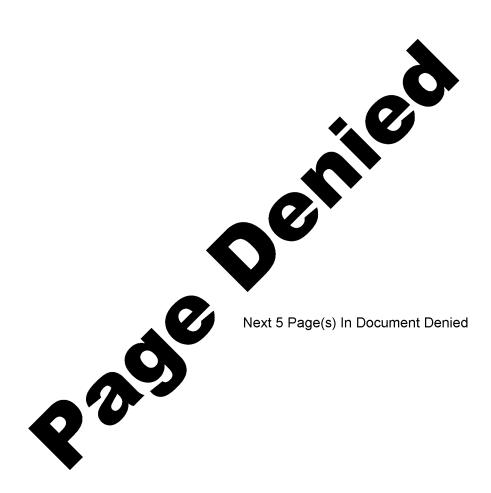
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~		10 May 1978
	CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFIC	CANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS
<u>Date</u> <u>Plac</u>		U.S. Citizen Kidnaped in Colombia On 15 March an American was kid- naped and held hostage on a farm. The kidnapers demanded a ransom of U.S. \$250,000 for his release. The Colombian armed forces rescued him on 29 April. 50X1-HUM
Date	: 2 May 1978	U.S. Cultural Center Firebombed
Place	e: Spain, Madrid	in Spain On 2 May four bottles filled with gasoline where thrown in a window of the library of the cultural center. The resultant fire damaged furnishings and books before being put out by guards and cleaning personnel who were in the building. No injuries were reported. The Vanguardia Falangista claimed responsibility and said, in a telephone call, this incident was to celebrate the second of May uprising against the French in 1808 and to protest U.S. bases in Spain. 50X1-HUM
Date:	5 May 1978	Explosion in Turkey Near USICA
<u>Place</u>	: Turkey, Ankara	Building On 5 May an explosion was detonated between two buildings in Ankara. One of the buildings houses the U.S. International Communications Agency. No injuries resulted and property

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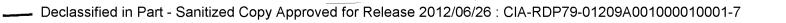
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Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

17 May 1978

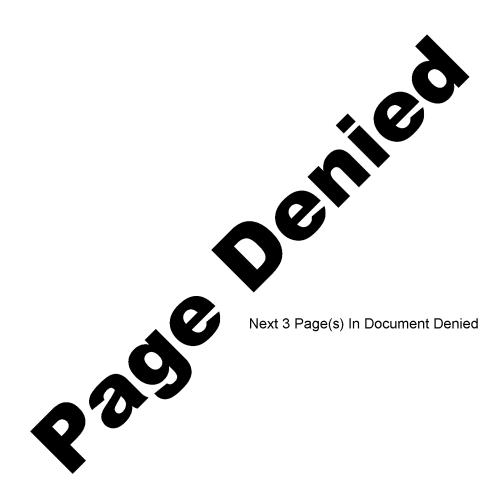
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NOTES

French Arrest and Deport West German Terrorist Suspect

On 11 May French police arrested West German terrorist Stefan Wisniewski at Orly Airport in Paris when an official noticed his "obviously false" German passport. Wisniewski is one of the suspects in the kidnaping/slaying of West German industralist Hanns-Martin Schleyer. The French deported Wisniewski without delay; he is being held in Mannheim in southwestern Germany. Reports vary on whether Wisniewski was about to depart for Zagreb, Yugoslavia, or had just arrived from there. At any rate, West German officials believe his recent activities involved shuttling between the Middle East and Western Europe--mission unknown.

West German authorites described Wisniewski as a fringe figure in the terrorist movement, but he has been on their most wanted list for some time. He had been a member of anarchist circles in Heidelberg before he joined a group of comrades for a guerrilla training course run by the PFLP in South Yemen in the summer of 1976. West German authorities consider him a member of the "Haag/Mayer Gang", which is a subgroup of the Red Army Faction. Even though Haag and Mayer are also in prison, their leadership may be filling the gap left by the suicides of Baader, Ensslin and Raspe.

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Official Inquiry Into Baader-Meinhof Suicides Ended

According to the German press, the Stuttgart public prosecutor's office has completed the investigations into the deaths of Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin, and Jan-Carl Raspe in top security Stuttgart-Stammheim prison on 18 October 1977.

The three former leaders of the Baader-Meinhof gang (Red Army Faction) of West Germany were found dead in their cells within hours

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17 May 1978

after the West German GSG-9 team rescue of the hostages in the Lufthansa plane hijacked to Somalia for the purpose of releasing them and other imprisoned terrorists. Although the evidence pointed to suicide, Baader-Meinhof gang sympathizers in the FRG and other West European countries cried murder. Now, after extensive investigations using experts from outside countries, the authorities have announced there is "no doubt" of suicide. One other prisoner, Irmgard Moeller, possibly because of the difficulty of using a bread knife as a suicide weapon, failed in the apparent four-way suicide pact and has recovered. The investigators have indeed that she "injured herself with suicidal intention".

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Postponement of Siba'i Assassins' Sentences

On 9 May defense lawyers for the two Palestinian terrorists who killed Egyptian editor Yusuf Siba'i in Nicosia in February concluded their appeals before the Cyprus Supreme Court. The court announced a postponement of the date set for their execution from 1 June until 27 June to permit deliberation on the appeal.

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		17 May 1978	
CHRO	NOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT	INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS	
Date:	10 May 1978	Nicaraguan Ambassador to Colombia	
Place:	Colombia, Bogota	Kidnaped On 10 May the Nicaraguan ambassador was dragged from his residence in northern Bogota by armed terrorists dressed as clergy. Local police immediately set up an extensive search operation. The abductors became frightened and aborted the operation releasing the ambassador near a military club in Puerte Aranda. He returned to the diplomatic mission on his own and was apparently unharmed. M-19 claimed responsibility for the incident.	
Date:	10 May 1978	Czech Plane Hijacked to West	
Place:	Czechoslovakia	On 10 May a Czech airliner was hijacked to Frankfurt with 46 persons aboard. The plane was on a domestic flight from Prague to Brno when the hijackers (a taxi driver and a married couple) threatened to set off a bomb if the plane was not rerouted to West Germany. They surrendered to German authorities and re-	

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quested asylum for themselves and the couple's two children. This was the eighth such hijacking since 1970 of a Czech plane to

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West Germany.

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17 May 1978

Date:

11 May 1978

Place:

Italy, Milan

Manager of U.S. Bank Shot by Italian Terrorists

On 11 May the Italian manager of the Milan branch of the New York Chemical Bank was shot in the legs. Two groups jointly claimed responsibility for the shooting--the Communist Fighters Organization Front Line and the Communist Fighting Formations. Local police have expected the terrorists to turn to non-Italian targets for some time and had tightened security at embassies. The Red Brigades have labeled U.S. multinational corporations as among their prime enemies.

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Date:

11 May 1978

Place:

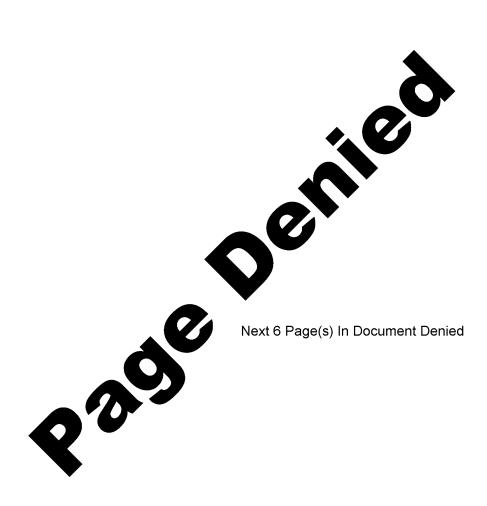
Colombia

Colombian Jet Hijacked to Curacao On 11 May an Avianca airliner was hijacked during a domestic flight from Santa Marta to Bogota. plane was diverted to Cali, where the Boeing 727 was refueled and two women and two children were permitted to deplane. The jet then flew to Aruba, where the flight engineer was shot and pushed from the plane; at least 24 passengers left the aircraft in Aruba. After the plane landed in Curacao the crew jumped one hijacker who was armed with a grenade and pistol. The second gunman was captured by local police as he tried to mingle with passengers. Two policemen and one of the hijackers were wounded. Avianca officials in Bogota reported a demand for U.S. \$55,000 for return of the plane; no other reason for the incident has surfaced.

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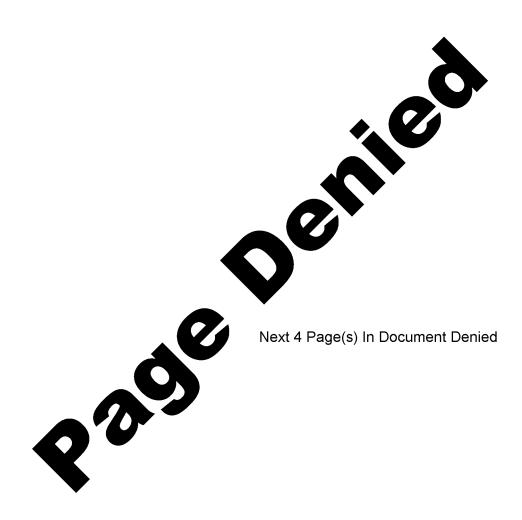
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NOTE

Rhodesian Guerrillas Slay Three Red Cross Workers

According to press reports, on 18 May black nationalist guerrillas killed two Swiss Red Cross workers and their African assistant. The guerrillas ambushed the men as they were riding in their distinctive, white-painted jeep which bore the Red Cross insignia. The attack occurred at Nyamaropa, on the Mozambique border. Police estimated that the vehicle had been hit 200 times and that the attack was carried out by seven guerrillas using machine guns and rifle grenades. A Red Cross official who arrived at the scene to remove the bullet-riddled bodies said that it was the first deliberate killing of Red Cross personnel in a combat zone since World War II.

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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date:

17 May 1978

Place:

El Salvador, San Salvador Japanese Businessman Kidnaped

in El Salvador

On 17 May a Japanese textile factory executive was kidnaped in San Salvador. He was abducted from the offices of INSINCA by armed terrorists. The Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN) claimed responsibility for the kidnaping and has made several demands for his release including release of 22 political prisoners. If the FARN demands are not met the hostage will be executed.

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Date:

19 May 1978

Place:

Romania, Bucharest

Red Cross Plane Hijacked by

Two Romanians

On 19 May two Romanian flight mechanics commandeered a Red Cross rescue plane in Bucharest and flew it across Yugoslavia and Hungary to Austria. The plane was shot at by Romanian fighter planes. Planes from Hungary followed them at a distance across Hungary to the Austrian border. No injuries were reported; the pair requested asylum, according to an Austrian authority.

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Date:

19 May 1978

Place:

Rhodesia

Red Cross Workers Killed in

Rhodesia

On 19 May two Swiss Red Cross workers and their African assis-

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24 May 1978

tant were killed by guerrillas near the Mozambique border. The bodies were found near their distinctive white jeep with its Red Cross insignia.

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Date:

20 May 1978

Place:

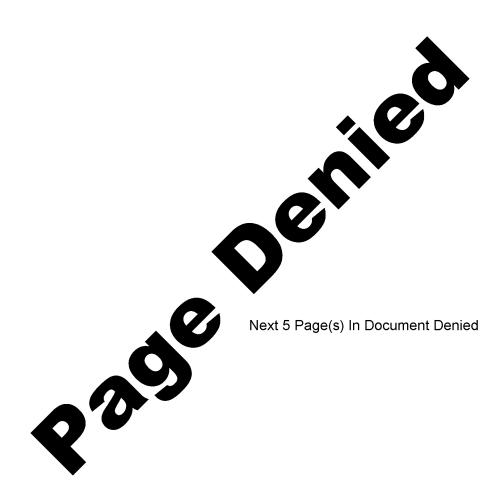
France, Paris

Arab Terrorists Attack El Al Passengers

On 20 May three terrorists armed with machine pistols attacked passengers waiting for an El Al flight at Orly Airport in Paris. A charter group of French tourists was preparing to board a flight to Israel when the attack took place. Israeli security guards and French policemen returned the gunfire and killed the trio. One policeman was killed and three others were wounded; three passengers were wounded. Hand grenades and plastic explosives were found near the bodies of the gunmen. Authorities believe the men arrived at Orly earlier in the day from Tunis. This was the fourth such attack at Orly in six years against E1 A1.

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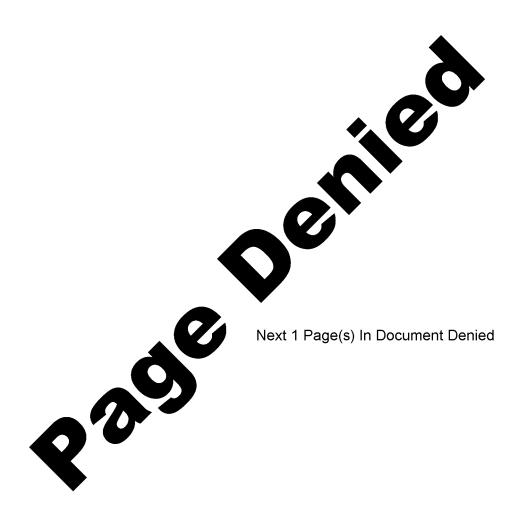


Weekly Situation Report on International Terrorism

50X1-HUM

31 May 1978

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31 May 1978

Yugoslavs Arrest Four of West Germany's Most Wanted Terrorists

Yugoslav police recently arrested four of West Germany's most wanted terrorists, according to an announcement by West German authorities. Details of the circumstances of the arrest are not available but extradition proceedings are underway, according to the authorities. The arrests are significant because they reflect a growing improvement in international cooperation in apprehending terrorists who move across international boundaries; they also represent the most important success to date of the Europe-wide dragnet launched after the slaying of West German industrialist Hanns-Martin Schleyer in October 1977.

The four arrested terrorists are Brigitte Mohnhaupt, Rolf-Clemens Wagner, Peter Boock, and Sieglinde Hoffmann. They range in age from 27 to 33 and all belong to the Red Army Faction of West Germany, or, in the case of the latter two, possibly the subgroup known as "Haag-Mayer". All four have been on the list of the 40 West German terrorists most wanted by the West German Federal Criminal Office (BKA) in connection with the Buback, Ponto, or Schleyer slayings in 1977. Wagner and Mohnhaupt were on the original list of 16; Hoffmann and Boock were added later. Mohnhaupt is suspected of having participated in an attempted rocket attack on the West German prosecutor's office in August 1977; she is also believed to be the female who eluded arrest a month later in the Netherlands when she fled the scene of the shootout in which her companion, Knut Folkerts, killed a Dutch policeman. Certain news items have linked Brigitte Mohnhaupt with the Aldo Moro kidnaping, but such a connection is based on incomplete facts. West German and Italian authorities are indeed interested in determining the significance of the name "Brigitte" on a note which may or may not be significant in the Moro case; however, this particular name could belong to a number of West German terrorists. The linking of Mohnhaupt to the Moro case cannot at this point be substantiated.

The Yugoslav arrest may or may not be linked to the arrest in Paris on 11 May of RAF terrorist Stefan Wisniewski, who had been on the verge of departing for Yugoslavia. Another recent arrest in Paris 50X1-HUM

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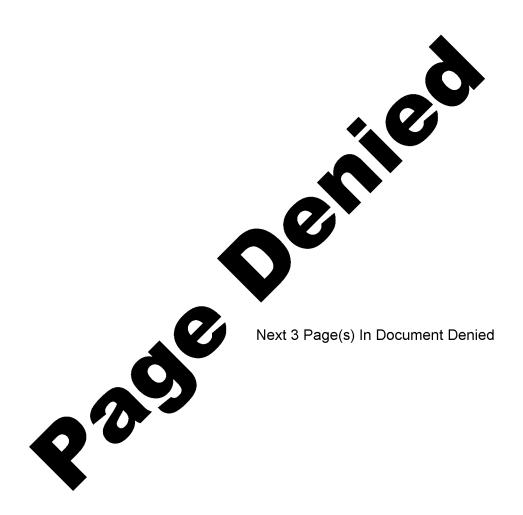
31 May 1978

at Orly Airport, involved Marion-Brigitte Folkerts, sister-in-law of Knut Folkerts (above) and wife of jailed terrorist Uwe Folkerts.

The arrests afford some relief to West German criminal police, who have been subjected to considerable public criticism for their failure to capture so few of the 40 most wanted terrorists in spite of their modern equipment and technology, and their heavy concentration of resources allocated to the terrorist hunt. The arrests in Yugoslavia also corroborate the belief of the authorities that many of those involved in the three major terrorist incidents of 1977 fled from West Germany to both West and East European countries. Moreover, the arrests perhaps alleviate somewhat the chagrin of the authorities over the ease with which two female terrorists freed an imprisoned comrade from Moahit Prison in West Berlin on 27 May

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31 May 1978

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date:

24 May 1978

Place:

Brazil, Recife

Hostages Held in Honorary Mexican Consul's Office in Brazil On 24 May an armed man seized the Honorary Mexican Consul and four office workers in the consul's office in Recife. The consul had turned down the young man's request for a student scholarship to Mexico. The gunman demanded safe conduct and transportation out of Brazil to Mexico, Cuba, Sweden or East Europe. He released his hostages believing his demands were to be met. When he surrendered to police he was immediately ar-No injuries were rerested. ported.

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Date:

29 May 1978

Place:

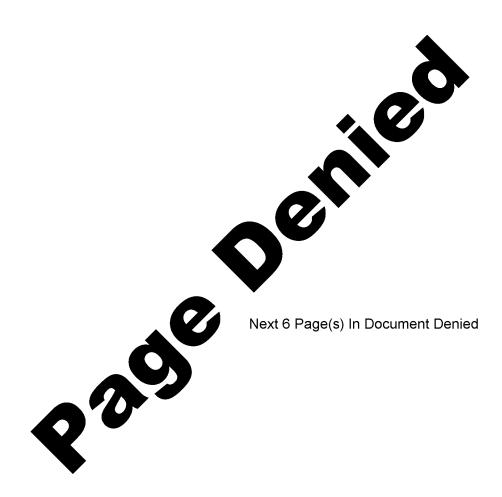
Colombia, Bogota

Texas Petroleum Employee Kidnaped in Colombia
On 29 May the general manager of Texas Petroleum Company in Bogota was kidnaped. There has been no contact by the perpetrators regarding demands for the victim's release. It is not known if the kidnapers are common criminals or members of a terrorist group.

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